



PENINSULA OPEN SPACE TRUST

# Landscapes

SPRING 2011

## Living Landscape Initiative

POST helps launch bold new effort for  
Silicon Valley region

## Spring Outings

Ideas for your next outdoor adventure  
+ amateur photo contest!

# New Initiative Launched

## Moore and Packard Foundations Support POST and Partner Land Trusts

A group of five leading land conservation organizations including POST are collaborating to achieve critical large-scale land protection goals in the heart of coastal California. The effort, launched in March and called the Living Landscape Initiative, includes POST and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, The Nature Conservancy, Save the Redwoods League and Sempervirens Fund. Sacramento-based Resources Legacy Fund helped fund the effort using major support from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation and the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

The goal of the Initiative is to protect 80,000 acres in the next 20 years in order to maintain a vibrant and sustainable living landscape in and around Silicon Valley.

## Living Landscape initiative

Vast open spaces, broad biodiversity, productive working lands, recreational access and dramatic natural beauty help attract an educated work force to the Valley and enhance the quality of life in the region. But as growth continues to explode and the effects of climate change accelerate, our local natural lands are at risk of disappearing altogether. The Initiative seeks to protect our region's beauty and natural benefits so we can continue nourishing the intellectual capital and social and economic engine of Silicon Valley.

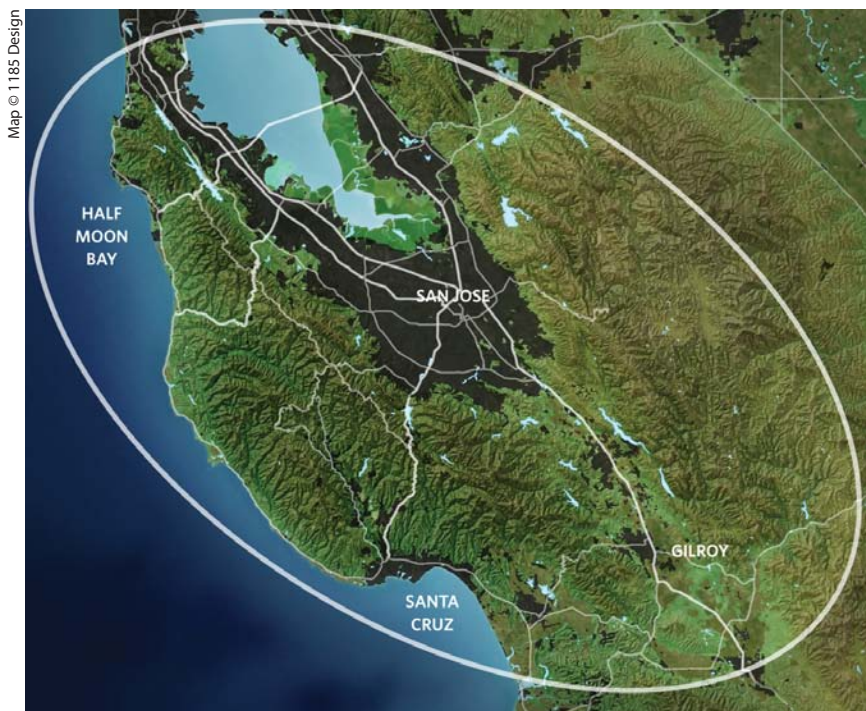
### The Time is Now

"Setting a large-scale vision for how nature can survive and thrive in and around Silicon Valley is the only way we can secure a viable, sustainable future for the diversity of life here," said POST President Audrey Rust. "The organizations within the Initiative have worked together on previous occasions, but in a one-off, case-by-case fashion. By coordinating our efforts more closely, we can

go much further than any one group acting alone. This effort will allow us to add to the already remarkable landscape of permanently protected acres in our region."

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation has put forth a \$15 million 3-to-1 challenge grant for land acquisition and stewardship over the next three years in an effort to attract matching funds to the Initiative from the public and private sectors.

"We're at a critical time for translating scientific knowledge into impact at a strategic, regional scale — ensuring a human connection to our surroundings, creating linkages for wildlife, and conserving essential plant and animal habitats," said Steve McCormick, president of the Moore Foundation. "I am extremely pleased to direct the foundation's resources to this collaborative." ■



*The region where POST and four other leading land trusts are working to save large-scale sustainable landscapes.*

# Areas of Focus:

## Coastal Lands

**Protection Goal: 10,000 acres**

Rolling hills, windswept bluffs and family farms are just a short drive from the bustle of Silicon Valley. Both residents and visitors enjoy beaches, hikes along the California Coastal Trail and the fresh, local foods that this region provides. Unique habitats that exist here, such as coastal terrace prairie, are some of the most diverse in the world. Endangered salmon rely on its coastal waterways. Yet encroaching development and rising sea levels make this area more fragile than ever.



© William Matthias

## Redwood Heartland

**Protection Goal: 30,000 acres**

The coast redwoods of the Santa Cruz Mountains provide a place for solace and reflection for San Francisco Bay Area residents and for visitors from around the world. But these magnificent forests do more than inspire. They hold soil together to keep our water clean, provide habitat for multiple species—including some found only in these forests—and sequester greenhouse gases to clean our air.



© 1995 Robert Buelteman

## Pajaro Corridor

**Protection Goal: 30,000 acres**

The area where the Santa Cruz, Gabilan and Diablo mountain ranges meet at the Pajaro River is rich in wildlife, water, agriculture and ranching. The waterways of this region flow into the Pajaro River, which in turn drains into the Monterey Bay, a National Marine Sanctuary. As our climate changes, keeping these lands intact will be critical for allowing plants and animals to adapt.



© Stephen Slade

## Essential Links

**Protection Goal: 10,000 acres**

Marked by 4,000-foot Mount Hamilton, the ridgeline of the Santa Cruz Mountains, rolling ranchlands and coastal wetlands, Silicon Valley is home to one of the most complex ecosystems in the world. For this system to remain healthy, we must connect these lands and protect their natural resources to prevent unchecked urban sprawl and make our landscapes more adaptable to the accelerating effects of climate change.



© Getty Images

To learn more, visit [www.livinglandscapeinitiative.org](http://www.livinglandscapeinitiative.org)



# Spring Outings:

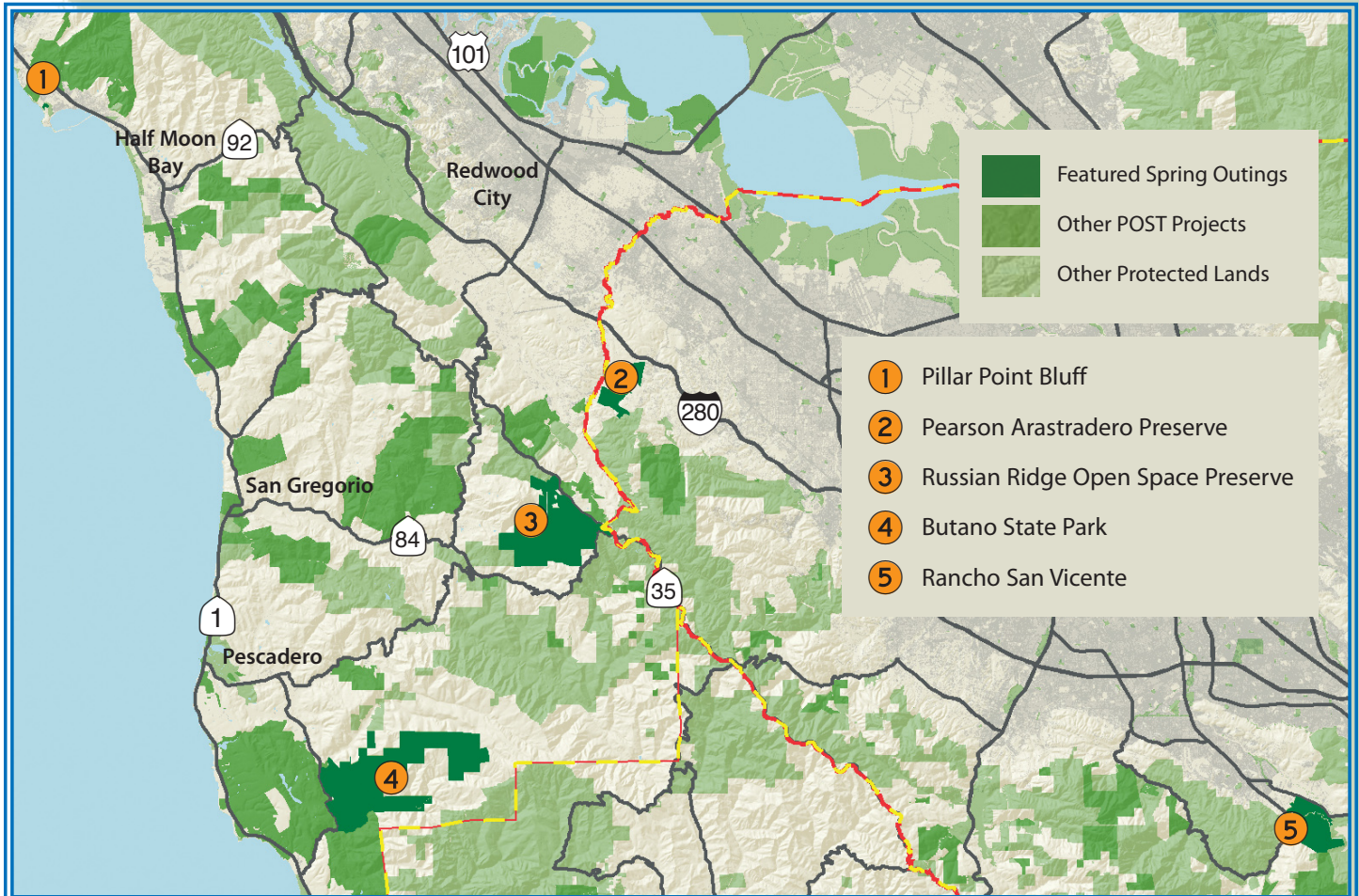
## Experience POST-protected Land in Full Bloom

It's easy to count our blessings this time of year. Trails are drying out from a wet spring, wildflowers are nearing their peak and the first weeks of real warmth have us yearning for a reason to be outside. Lucky for us, our backyard happens to contain some of the most unique and diverse habitats in the world: verdant hill country, redwood forests, miles of wild coastline, free-flowing creeks and rivers, and multi-generational farms and ranches.

POST has spent the last 34 years at the forefront of saving these treasured lands and putting them into the public realm, but our work does not end when we purchase or transfer a property. Our commitment is to the permanent preservation and sustainability of these lands for your enjoyment and sense of well-being as well as for things like clean air, clean water and a supply of healthy food grown close to home. As a part of that commitment, POST has recently teamed up with four other leading conservation groups focused on preserving and connecting our most important and vulnerable ecosystems (see our story on the Living Landscape Initiative, p. 2).

To celebrate this glorious, flower-fueled season, we've put together a list of suggested hikes on lands you've helped save through your support of POST. As you muse over taking a mellow coastal walk, a high-speed mountain bike ride, or a ridgeline hike into the heart of the Santa Cruz Mountains, take a moment to savor the matchless beauty and diversity of this place, and your part in keeping it whole.

For more information and driving directions, visit <http://www.openspacetrust.org/activities/outings>



# Wildflower Fireworks:

## See Mindego Hill from Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

3 on map

POST has played a key role in the expansion of Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District's (MROSD) Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve, with the transfer of Mindego Hill to MROSD in 2008 and the imminent transfer of our recent 97.5-acre purchase (see p. 8). While we eagerly await the opening of these new lands, you can still enjoy Russian Ridge as it explodes with color this spring. Park at the Caltrans vista point on Skyline Boulevard and cross the road into the preserve for the best view of Mindego Hill. ■

© 2010 Judy Kramer



**Keep Your Eyes Open:** In May and June, gumweed, mule ears, farewell-to-spring and Brodiaea bloom along the hillsides. Year round, raptors soar along updrafts and coyotes yip and call.

**Location:** San Mateo County, off Skyline Blvd. (Hwy 35)

**Access:**   

**Trail Difficulty:** Easy to moderate

**Managed by:** Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District

[www.openspacetrust.org/activities/outings\\_russianridge](http://www.openspacetrust.org/activities/outings_russianridge)



© 2010 Judy Kramer

*Sticky Monkey Flower*

## Southland in the Springtime: Rancho San Vicente

5 on map

Once slated for a housing development replete with golf course, 966-acre Rancho San Vicente was purchased by POST from private developers in 2009 and transferred to the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department that same year. Rancho San Vicente is a key link between Almaden Quicksilver and Calero county parks, with the potential to connect more than 31,000 acres of surrounding open space and parkland. The property is not officially open to the public, but this spring and summer you can see stunning wildflowers and rare serpentine soils on special docent-led tours offered by Santa Clara County Parks. The tours are free. For reservations, contact Carrie Grisenti, Outdoor Recreation Coordinator, at (408) 355-2240 or [carrie.grisenti@prk.sccgov.org](mailto:carrie.grisenti@prk.sccgov.org). ■

© 2009 Judy Kramer



**Keep Your Eyes Open:** Fields of poppies, silver puffs, popcorn flowers and birdseye gilia, rare Bay Checkerspot butterflies, panoramic views.

**Location:** South Santa Clara County, 12 miles southwest of downtown San Jose at the southern tip of Almaden Valley.

**Access:** Closed to the public, special docent-led tours available.

**Trail Difficulty:** Moderate

**Managed by:** Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department

[www.openspacetrust.org/activities/outings\\_ranchosanvicente](http://www.openspacetrust.org/activities/outings_ranchosanvicente)

## Bring the Pooch:

2 on map

### Pearson Arastradero Preserve

**Keep Your Eyes Open:** Yellow fiddlenecks, wild roses, tangled blackberry, quail, redwing blackbirds and cottontail rabbits.

**Location:** Santa Clara County, just off I-280 in Palo Alto

**Access:** Multi-use    

**Trail Difficulty:**  
Easy to moderate

**Managed by:**  
City of Palo Alto

[www.openspacetrust.org/  
activities/outings\\_  
arastradero](http://www.openspacetrust.org/activities/outings_arastradero)



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trails. For a scenic loop, take the Juan Bautista de Anza Trail out to Arastradero Creek Trail, turn right on Woodrat Trail, then another right onto Meadowlark Trail before descending back to the de Anza Trail. For a longer out-and-back, take the Arastradero Creek Trail all the way to the city of Palo Alto's Foothills Park—a residents-only jewel, unless you hike in. Be sure to check in at the kiosk in the main parking lot for the latest trail information. ■

## Gateway to the Mountains:

### Butano Fire Road, Butano State Park

4 on map

**Keep Your Eyes Open:** Sticky Monkey Flower bushes, Coast Live Oak, expansive views.

**Location:** San Mateo County, south of Pescadero off Cloverdale Road

**Access:**    

**Trail Difficulty:** Moderate to strenuous

**Managed by:** California State Parks

[www.openspacetrust.org/  
activities/outings\\_  
butano](http://www.openspacetrust.org/activities/outings_butano)



© 2011 Jeff Powers

A little-known part of Butano State Park, the Butano Fire Road offers spectacular lookouts and access to the old system of logging roads and trails in the Santa Cruz Mountains. In 2000, POST transferred 903 acres of its Cloverdale Coastal Ranches

to Butano State Park, where this gravel road begins. About half a mile up the trail, the road opens up with a view of Blue House Farm and other agricultural fields, coastal scrub and grasslands on Cloverdale. Another mile up it turns into a Douglas fir and redwood forest with views of chalky, eroding rock faces. At the junction with Butano State Park/Jackson Flats Trail, there is a panoramic view of the Santa Cruz Mountains with the ocean in the distance. ■

© 2010 Judy Kramer



Buttercup

# Seaside Lookout:

## Pillar Point Bluff

1 on map

POST acquired this 119-acre windswept lookout in August 2004 to protect it from commercial development. With funding from the California Coastal Conservancy and the Jean Lauer Memorial Fund, POST created a segment of the 1,200-mile California Coastal Trail here. The Jean Lauer Trail overlooks a seasonal wetland as well as coastal waters protected by San Mateo County Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. It's also a great place to walk your dog. Don't forget a leash! ■

**Keep Your Eyes Open:** Soaring pelicans, cormorants, gulls, hawks and harbor seals.

**Location:** San Mateo County, near Moss Beach off Hwy 1

**Access:**  

**Trail Difficulty:** Easy to moderate

**Managed by:** San Mateo County Parks Department by special agreement with POST

[www.openspacetrust.org/activities/outings\\_pillar](http://www.openspacetrust.org/activities/outings_pillar)

## Helpful Guides

### To Make the Most of Your Time Outdoors

#### Trail Guides

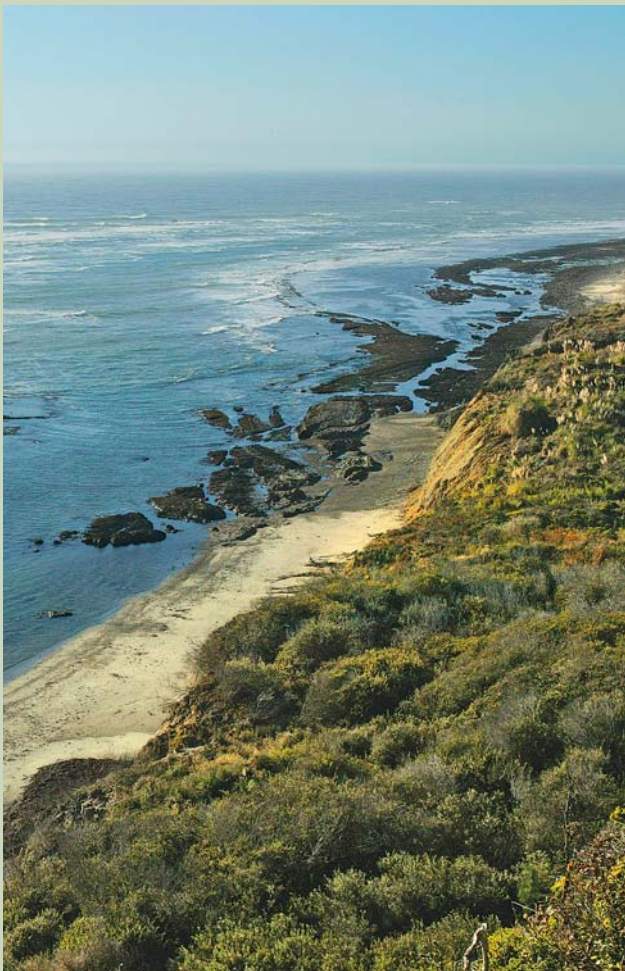
- **Peninsula Trails** by Jean Rusmore with Frances Spangle, Betsy Crowder and Sue LaTourrette (Wilderness Press, 4th ed. 2005) – If you want to hike the Peninsula, let this classic guide be your starting point.
- **Bay Area Ridge Trail** by Jean Rusmore (Wilderness Press, 3rd ed. 2008) – A comprehensive guide to more than 300 miles of public trails around the Bay Area, including the Peninsula and South Bay regions.
- **Hiking the California Coastal Trail**, Vol. 1 by Bob Lorentzen and Richard Nichols (Bored Feet/Coastwalk, 2nd ed. 2002) – Covers 600 miles of the California Coastal Trail from the Oregon border to Monterey.

#### Wildflower Guides

- **Wildflower Madness:** A celebration of native wildflowers of the San Francisco Peninsula area by Judy Kramer (2nd ed. 2010) – An easy-to-use guide from a long-time POST supporter. To order: [www.earthwitnessphoto.com](http://www.earthwitnessphoto.com).

#### Websites

- **Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District** – Superb maps and trail descriptions of some of the best public lands the Peninsula has to offer. <http://www.openspace.org/>
- **Bay Area Open Space Council's Transit & Trails Program** – An interactive website with hundreds of Bay Area trailheads and campgrounds that links to MTC's 511 Transit Trip Planner. <http://www.openspacecouncil.org/programs/>
- **Bay Area Hiker** – User-friendly site that allows you to scout the perfect hike no matter what your mood or ability level. <http://bahiker.com>
- **Weekend Sherpa** – A free weekly e-newsletter with great recommendations for outdoor adventures in California. <http://www.weekendsherpa.com/>



Poppy & Lupine



© 2010 Karl Kroeber

## POST Acquires 97.5 Acres Adjacent to Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve

In January POST bought 97.5 acres of undulating grasslands, oak woodlands and madrones on the western flank of Skyline Ridge, four miles southeast of La Honda. The land is situated along Alpine Road near the Mindego Hill portion of Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve that POST saved from developers in 2007 and transferred to Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD) in 2008. POST purchased this latest property for \$3.09 million from members of the Silva family of Santa Clara and expects to transfer it this summer to MROSD as an addition to the Russian Ridge preserve.

POST's purchase of this strategically located property helps expand the connection between Skyline Ridge and Russian Ridge preserves and creates an opportunity for a future parking lot and trailhead to Mindego Hill. The property will also be the site of a lasting tribute to outgoing POST President Audrey Rust (see story and map, p. 10). ■

## Little Basin Joins Big Basin as California State Parkland

Once the private playground for Hewlett-Packard employees, 535-acre Little Basin now belongs to everyone. On February 24, POST and Sempervirens Fund officially transferred Little Basin to California Department of Parks and Recreation as an addition to the adjacent Big Basin Redwoods State Park. A priority State Parks acquisition, Little Basin was appraised for \$7.7 million in 2010 and was sold to State Parks for \$6.5 million. In transferring Little Basin to State Parks, POST and Sempervirens have set aside \$1.3 million from the sale proceeds in a land stewardship fund to ensure that Little Basin is well maintained and cared for into the future.

The two land trusts jointly owned and managed Little Basin since 2007, when they acquired the property in the heart of the Santa Cruz Mountains for \$4 million from the Hewlett-Packard Company (HP). "With the transfer of Little Basin to State Parks, we have accomplished our original goals to protect the beautiful redwoods and open meadows and open the property for public enjoyment," said POST President Audrey Rust.



© 2009 Dan Quinn

Along with this property transfer, Sempervirens and POST also transferred to State Parks a concession agreement established with United Camps, Conferences and Retreats (UCCR) to run Little Basin until 2017. UCCR is a nonprofit organization based in Petaluma that specializes in running outdoor camping facilities and environmental education programs. ■

**For more information on access to Little Basin, please contact UCCR at 800-678-5102 or visit <http://uccr.org>.**

## POST and Partners Preserve Land, Trails near Cupertino

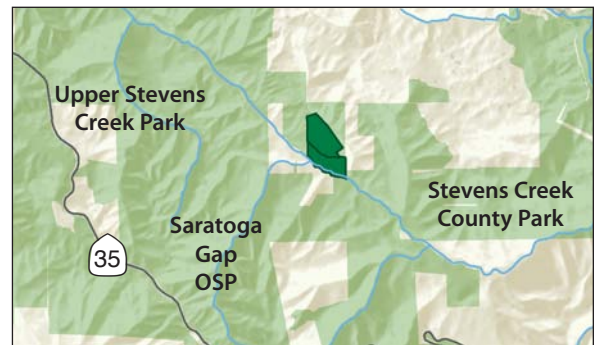
**S**ometimes even the smallest projects can make a big impact. Thanks to a fruitful partnership between POST, Santa Clara County and the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD), 54 acres overlooking Cupertino will now help connect a larger regional network of open space land. On March 11, POST purchased the property located in Stevens Canyon for \$1.5 million from private sellers. Weeks later, on March 30, POST transferred the land to MROSD for the same amount with Santa Clara County contributing \$750,000 to MROSD toward the agency's purchase. The county will also hold a conservation

easement over the property that ensures future public access.

"There's much work to be done to create a viable greenbelt of rural lands in our area, and ongoing partnerships between land trusts like POST and public agencies are essential to meet this need," said POST President Audrey Rust.

With impressive views of forested hillsides along Stevens Canyon, the property is adjacent to MROSD's Monte Bello and Saratoga Gap open space preserves. The land will expand the connection between the two preserves and is identified

as a corridor for the extension of the Stevens Creek Tony Look Trail between nearby Stevens Creek County Park and Upper Stevens Creek County Park. It also serves as a critical link for migrating wildlife and provides watershed protection within Stevens Canyon. ■



## Volunteer of the Year: George Zimmerman

**T**his year POST honored George Zimmerman of San Mateo with the 2011 Volunteer of the Year Award at an event held at POST's offices on March 31. He was chosen from among 200 POST volunteers for

his extraordinary behind-the-scenes contributions to POST.

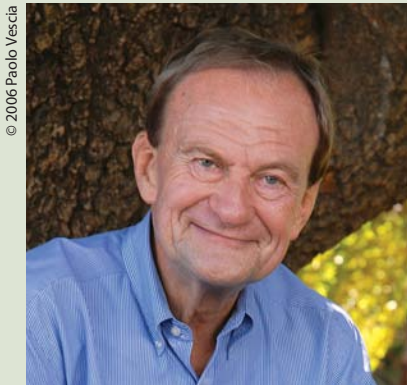
An experienced volunteer, George helped found POST's Skyline Society Committee seven years ago with Senior Development Officer Daphne Muehle.

Says Daphne, "George is so knowledgeable of how volunteer committees should function and how to keep them motivated. He has a wonderful way with the other donors and clearly loves his role as an ambassador for POST."

A retired assistant planning director for the City of Palo Alto, George was also one of the first donors

to join POST's Open Space Legacy Society (OSLS) when he included POST in his estate plans. He became our first spokesperson for OSLS and helped create a special donor mailing encouraging others to include POST in their estate plans.

"In his roles as a Skyline Society Committee member and a lead volunteer for the Open Space Legacy Society, George brings graciousness, enthusiasm and insight to his work with POST and our supporters," said POST President Audrey Rust. "Both of these programs have benefited greatly from his contribution and wouldn't be the same without him." ■



© 2006 Paolo Vescia



# Honor Audrey C. Rust

## with a Gift to the Audrey's Way Fund

**F**ew people working in conservation today have made as big an impact as POST President Audrey C. Rust. For nearly 25 years, she has led the way in preserving the open lands of the San Francisco Peninsula and Santa Cruz Mountain range for all people to enjoy for generations to come.

Earlier this year, Audrey announced her plans to retire as of July 1. It's only fitting we celebrate her legacy with a special honor perfectly suited to her inspiration and achievements.

### Recognizing an Incomparable Legacy

Audrey's Way, a fund in honor of Audrey C. Rust, has been established to create a commemorative site along Skyline Ridge to celebrate her accomplishments and expedite access to surrounding protected land. This is a place that will delight and inspire, and your gift can help make it a reality.

Our goal is to raise \$1.5 million to create the site and cover the costs of maintaining it. The fund also helps accelerate opening up nearby Mindego Hill for public access by funding a new staging area, parking lot, trailhead and trail connections for Russian Ridge Open Space Preserve.

Tucked away on a grassy knoll along Alpine Road just west of Skyline Boulevard, the site is part of a recently protected property that will transfer from POST to the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District in June for inclusion into the Russian Ridge preserve (see story, p. 8). The spot affords sweeping views of Mindego Hill, Cloverdale Coastal Ranches, and other POST-protected lands. In the spirit of Audrey's love of painting, drawing and the visual arts, the site will be

designed to inspire the artist in all of us. It will also provide wonderful recreation options, including two new connector trails called "Audrey's Way" leading in opposite directions and linking hikers to surrounding trails.

Once constructed, we expect this location will quickly become a well-loved destination for artists, hikers and other visitors. The Audrey's Way Fund will cover the costs of long-term maintenance so that this spot always remains in excellent condition.

### Celebrate a Hero for the Land

This lasting tribute will celebrate Audrey's passion and enthusiasm for nature, beauty and conservation by giving people an extraordinary vantage point across miles of POST-protected open space. With your gift to this fund, you can be part of a special effort to recognize a beloved champion of the environment and a true Bay Area visionary.

To make your gift in Audrey's honor, please contact Mark Dawson, Director, Capital Gifts, at (650) 854-7696 x342 or [mdawson@openspacetrust.org](mailto:mdawson@openspacetrust.org). Thank you! ■



View of Mindego Hill from the future site of Audrey's Way.

# TRIBUTES

October 16, 2010 – March 15, 2011

*POST is grateful to receive gifts in honor or in memory of particular individuals.  
These gifts are a wonderful way to pay tribute to a person's love of outdoor places.*

## GIFTS IN HONOR OF

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Emily Arcolino  
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*Landscapes* is published by  
Peninsula Open Space Trust  
222 High Street, Palo Alto, CA 94301

Telephone: (650) 854-7696

Fax: (650) 854-7703

Web site: [www.openspacetrust.org](http://www.openspacetrust.org)

POST is a public benefit California corporation and is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Contributions to POST are tax-deductible.

Editor: Kate Cheney Davidson

Contributing Writers: Ann Duwe  
and Megan Hansen

Designed by DiVittorio & Associates

Printed by TradeMark Graphics, Inc.

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## LANDSCAPES SPRING 2011

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# Get Out On the Land

## Photo Contest!

These next few months are the best time to see POST-protected land at its most scenic. To give you that extra incentive to get outdoors, we're sponsoring a photo contest to capture the beauty of our shared backyard.

The deadline for submissions is **June 30, 2011**. The grand prize winner will have his/her submission appear in the fall issue of *Landscapes*. All finalists will be featured on our website.

For detailed instructions on how to enter your photo, please visit <http://www.openspacetrust.org/photocontest>. Amateur photographers, only!



Barn Owl © Cait Humik



Bolsa Beach © 2009 Kathryn Hargis



Mindero Hill © 1998 Audrey Rust

**The mission of Peninsula Open Space Trust (POST)** is to give permanent protection to the beauty, character and diversity of the San Francisco Peninsula and Santa Cruz Mountain range. POST encourages the use of these lands for natural resource protection, wildlife habitat, public recreation and agriculture for people here now and for future generations.